

funding that went into building that great example and symbol of free enterprise came from the public, from tax dollars, from the taxpayers of Canada in one form or another with subsidies, land grants, tax concessions, you name it.

● (1720)

**An Hon. Member:** Mineral rights.

**Mr. Blackburn:** We could add mineral rights to the list. As a matter of fact, talking in terms of today's dollar, owing to the inflation rate the original \$300 million that the CPR got out of the public purse would amount to about \$8.3 billion in federal Government handouts.

Several years ago, our Party listed certain corporate welfare bums in the country, and believe me, the CPR has been sucking at the public trough ever since it was established in the 1870s and 1880s. Now the Government is again knuckling under to a more sophisticated kind of blackmail; unless the taxpayers of Canada and particularly western Canadian farmers are prepared to pay money out of their pockets and into the coffers of the CPR, there will be no upgrading of railways in western Canada, there will not be the efficient and quick movement of grain that would enable farmers to compete and sell on world markets.

Once again, the Government has knuckled under to corporate pressure from the railway companies. First of all it has knuckled under to the company which it controls and owns outright, the CN, and then it has knuckled under to that great bastion of free enterprise, the CPR. That these great corporate giants can preach free enterprise on the one hand and on the other hand go obsequiously to Government and say, "Look, we need more taxpayers' money, bail us out, we do not want to use our own money, we do not want to float a bond issue, we do not want to float more common stock or common shares to trade on the open market," never ceases to amaze me. It is much easier to go begging, hat in hand, to the boys behind the scenes at the federal level and get the money directly from the taxpayers.

I alluded to the third point I wished to make at the beginning of my brief address. I make no apologies for the brevity of my speech. We are hammered and punched into making only ten minute speeches today thanks to one more closure from the other side. The point I referred to deals with my own constituency. In my constituency, Massey-Ferguson and White Farm Equipment are barely holding on by the skin of their teeth. White Farm Equipment is in terrible financial shape, and Massey-Ferguson is also in terrible financial shape but is managing to hold on. About 30 per cent of all combines and large tractors produced in Brantford at Massey-Ferguson and White Farm Equipment are exported to western Canada—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Cousineau:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

*Western Grain Transportation Act*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please! The Hon. Member for Gatineau (Mr. Cousineau), on a point of order.

**Mr. Cousineau:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member mentioned that he had only ten minutes to make his speech, because closure was being applied. I would like to point out that it is because of our Standing Orders and not because of closure on second reading.

[*English*]

**Mr. Blackburn:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for correcting me. It was my fault and he is correct. But no doubt we will be coming to closure very shortly anyway.

I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that in my constituency, which has Massey-Ferguson and White Farm Equipment, we see how closely related the farm implement industry and farming community are. Farm incomes are down. They have been down drastically for the past three or four years. Net farm income is projected to be down again in 1983 by yet another 14 per cent. About 30 per cent of all large combines and big tractors manufactured by both of those companies in Brantford are shipped to the Canadian West. The other 70 per cent are shipped to the American West.

Now how much more of a burden must these companies and the workers they have laid off suffer directly as a result of federal Government policy? As an example, statistics from western producers say that the cost to the western grain grower will be five times the cost that it presently is under the Crow rate by 1990. By 1995, it will be eight and one half times the cost it is now, and by the year 2000, the cost to the Canadian grain producer in western Canada will increase by 12.5 times.

In Brantford there are 1,200 workers on long-term lay-off at White Farm Equipment, which, as I said earlier, is undergoing extreme financial difficulty at this time. There were another 1,500 employees laid off at Massey-Ferguson. All of the other companies in central Canada, western Canada, Winnipeg and so on that produce farm equipment are in very bad shape. Now the federal Government, by doing away with the Crow rate, will only add to the cost of producing grain to the western farmer. The farmer will have even more difficulty buying equipment in Canada and putting men back to work.

This legislation will not only drastically and adversely affect western grain producers, it will also have a very, very adverse financial and economic effect on the manufacturing sector in the farm implement industry.

I see that my time is now up, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for allowing me a few extra seconds.

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, I stand in the House as a Member from the West but also as a Member from one of the cities in the West, the City of Calgary. Perhaps no city in Canada has been as abruptly and as badly hurt as a direct consequence of Government policy as has Calgary in the last year and a half. I come from a city that, a year and a half ago, had a vacancy rate of two-tenths of 1 per cent.